

**John P. Smol**, OC, PhD, FRSC is a professor in the Department of Biology at Queen's University, with a cross-appointment to the School of Environmental Studies, where he also holds the *Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change*. He received a B.Sc. from McGill University, an M.Sc. from Brock University and a Ph.D. from Queen's University. Following post-doctoral work in the High Arctic with the Geological Survey of Canada, he became a faculty member at Queen's University. He has held adjunct appointments in Canada, the United States, and China. He has received three honorary doctorates: a *Doctor of Laws* from St Francis Xavier University, an honorary *Doctor of Philosophy* from the University of Helsinki, and an honorary *Doctor of Science* from the University of Waterloo.

Smol founded the Paleocological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab (PEARL; <http://post.queensu.ca/~pearl/>) in 1991, a group of about 30 students and other scientists dedicated to the study of global environmental change, focusing primarily on changes in lake ecology. Smol has authored over 500 journal publications and book chapters, as well as completed 21 books, including his textbook *Pollution of Lakes and Rivers: A Paleoenvironmental Perspective*, now in its second edition and being translated into Chinese, and a co-authored textbook on ecology, entitled *Ecology: A Canadian Context* (recently released as a revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, and currently being translated into Chinese). He has lectured on all seven continents, and has authored about 900 conference presentations, which include many keynotes and plenary lectures. For example, he was the 2008 *Rutherford Lecturer* at the Royal Society (London). He was the founding Editor of the international *Journal of Paleolimnology* (1987-2007), is the current Editor of the journal *Environmental Reviews*, editor of the *Developments in Paleoenvironmental Research* book series, and is on the editorial boards of about ten other journals. Smol is a frequent commentator on environmental issues for radio, television, and the print media.

Since 1990, Prof. Smol has received over 50 national and international research and teaching awards, including an NSERC *Steacie Fellowship*, the 1992 *Steacie Prize* (Canada's top young scientist or engineer), a Canada Council *Killam Fellowship*, the Geological Association of Canada *Past-Presidents' Medal*, the Botanical Society of America *Darbaker Prize*, the *Rigler Prize* from the Society of Canadian Limnology, the Royal Society of Canada *Miroslaw Romanowski Medal* for advances in the environmental sciences as well as the *RSC Flavelle Medal* for the biological sciences, an NSERC *Award of Excellence*, and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography *Hutchinson Award*. The Royal Canadian Geographical Society named Prof Smol as the 2008 *Environmental Scientist of the Year* (an honour he shared with his brother, Prof. Jules Blais, of the Univ. Ottawa). In addition, he was presented with the *Killam Prize for the Natural Sciences* from the Canada Council, the *Premier's Discovery Award for Life Sciences and Medicine*, and the *Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research* – the largest prize of its kind. In 2012, the Chinese Academy of Sciences bestowed on Dr. Smol the title of *Einstein Professor*. In December 2004, Prof. Smol was awarded the *NSERC Herzberg Gold Medal*, as Canada's top scientist or engineer.

Dr Smol has also received ten teaching and mentoring awards, including the *W.T Barnes Teaching Excellence Award*, the *Chancellor A. Charles Baillie Teaching Award*, and the inaugural Queen's University *Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision*. In 2007, he was presented with the *T. Geoffrey Flynn Advancement Champion Award* for his work on scientific communication and outreach activities, and in 2009 was presented with a *3M National Teaching Fellowship*, considered by many to be Canada's top teaching honour. In 2010, following a nation-wide competition, Smol was chosen by *Nature* magazine as *Canada's Top Mid-Career Science Mentor*. In 2013, he was presented with the inaugural *Science Ambassador Award* (Partners in Research) for his scientific outreach. He was also named by *Canadian Geographic Magazine* as one of the nine *Canadian Change Makers* – Canadians making a difference in the world in 2013.

In June 2013, John Smol was named an *Officer of the Order of Canada*, the country's highest civilian honour.